

## **Information Sheet**

**R      Ousley, Mayme Hanrahan, 1887-1970.**  
**173      Papers, 1889-1967.**  
**Forty-two folders.**

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri](http://The State Historical Society of Missouri). If you would like more information, please contact us at [shsresearch@umsystem.edu](mailto:shsresearch@umsystem.edu).

This collection consists of correspondence and miscellaneous papers of a civic leader and mayor of St. James in Phelps County, Missouri. She was the first woman to be elected to the mayoralty of a city in Missouri. The papers include material regarding city business, her position on the board of Missouri State Training Schools, and her activities with the Rebekah Lodge (I.O.O.F.).

Mayme Hanrahan Ousley was born on 2 January 1887 at Edgar Springs in Phelps County, Missouri. She grew up in Rolla, and in 1905 she married Edward William Ousley, also a native of Phelps County and a 1906 graduate of Washington University's dental school. Following graduation, Dr. Ousley set up a practice in St. James, and he and his wife made that city their home for their entire adult lives. They were prominent public figures in St. James, being active in the Chamber of Commerce, the St. James Charity Board, and the Episcopal Church. Both died and are buried in St. James.

The Ousleys were involved in many fraternal, social, and business clubs, and were particularly active in the Masonic and Odd Fellow lodges. Mayme Ousley was an officer of the Order of the Eastern Star and the Rebekah Lodge, and was for many years a trustee of the Odd Fellow retirement home in Liberty, Missouri. She was also a member and officer of the National Good Roads Association and the Ozark Trails Association, both groups promoting an interstate highway system in the 1920s.

Mayme Ousley was also quite active in local Missouri Republican politics, and was one of the first women in the state to run for public office. She was defeated in bids for state representative and state senator, but she served four terms as mayor of St. James, elected in 1921, 1939, 1941, and 1955. She was the first woman in Missouri to serve as a municipal chief executive. In 1946, she was appointed to the board of the Missouri State Training Schools, which was charged with the responsibility of overseeing the schools at Boonville and Chillicothe.

The Ousley papers reflect a long career of public service by a woman of considerable executive ability. They have been arranged in five sections: her personal correspondence; biographical and genealogical material; official papers including St. James city business; papers pertaining to the Missouri State Training Schools; and lodge correspondence and printed material. Her personal correspondence generally concerns family and friends, but some items mention political or lodge affairs. The papers reflect a wide variety of acquaintances throughout the state. Her mayoral papers include information on a number of facets of city business, especially the establishment of a municipal utilities plant and the creation of a park by the James Foundation of New York at the site of the iron works at Maramec Spring.

Information concerning the board of Missouri State Training Schools begins with Ousley's appointment to the newly-created board by Gov. Phil M. Donnelly in 1946. The original members of the board served only two years before being removed by executive order, an action by the governor which spawned controversy and litigation. The collection includes minutes of meetings, legal papers, and correspondence with board members Fred Naeter, Thomas T. Neill, and Mrs. Tom Stark, and with director of schools Louis J. Sharp.

The last section of the collection consists of lodge papers. Most pertain to the Rebekah Lodge, with only one folder of miscellaneous material concerning Ousley's long association with the Order

of the Eastern Star. The Rebekah Lodge papers deal with her duties connected with various offices of the organization, local and statewide, including a post on the board of trustees of the Odd Fellow Home of Missouri at Liberty.

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12 July 1983

Earl Strebeck

Gift

### **Shelf List**

This collection consists of correspondence and miscellaneous papers of a civic leader and mayor of St. James in Phelps County, Missouri. She was the first woman to be elected to the mayor-alty of a city in Missouri. The papers include material regarding city business, her position on the board of Missouri State Training Schools, and her activities with the Rebekah Lodge (I.O.O.F.).

Folders 1-19: Personal correspondence, 1905-1967.

- Folder 01: Correspondence, 1905-1920.
- Folder 02: Correspondence, 1921.
- Folder 03: Correspondence, 1922.
- Folder 04: Correspondence, 1923.
- Folder 05: Correspondence, 1924-1925.
- Folder 06: Correspondence, 1926.
- Folder 07: Correspondence, 1927-1930.
- Folder 08: Correspondence, 1931-1932.
- Folder 09: Correspondence, 1933-1934.
- Folder 10: Correspondence, 1935-1939.
- Folder 11: Correspondence, 1940-1943.
- Folder 12: Correspondence, 1944-1946.
- Folder 13: Correspondence, 1947-1949.
- Folder 14: Correspondence, 1950-1951.
- Folder 15: Correspondence, 1952-1954.
- Folder 16: Correspondence, 1955-1957.
- Folder 17: Correspondence, 1958-1959.
- Folder 18: Correspondence, 1960-1967.
- Folder 19: Correspondence, undated and fragments.

Folders 20-24: Biographical and genealogical information, 1889-1958.

- Folder 20: James S. Ousley (1862-1944), estate papers, 1933-1944.
- Folder 21: Ousley family, miscellaneous biographical material, 1934-1958.
- Folder 22: Hanrahan family, miscellaneous papers, 1889-1956.
- Folder 23: Mayme H. Ousley (1887-1970), biographical material, ca. 1925-1955.
- Folder 24: Miscellaneous material, undated.

Folders 25-35: Official papers, 1921-1957.

- Folder 25: St. James, Missouri, municipal business, 1921.
- Folder 26: St. James, Missouri, municipal business, 1922.
- Folder 27: St. James, Missouri, municipal business, 1926-1940.
- Folder 28: St. James, Missouri, municipal business, 1941-1946.
- Folder 29: St. James, Missouri, municipal business, 1950-1957.
- Folder 30: St. James, Missouri, municipal business, undated.
- Folder 31: St. James Charity Board, papers, 1921-1927.
- Folder 32: Ozark Trails Association, papers, 1922-1929.
- Folder 33: Missouri State Training Schools, papers, 1946.
- Folder 34: Missouri State Training Schools, papers, 1947.
- Folder 35: Missouri State Training Schools, papers, 1948-1950.

Folders 36-42: Lodge papers, 1917-1962.

Folder 36: Order of the Eastern Star, miscellaneous printed material, 1917-1949.  
Folder 37: Rebekah Lodge, correspondence and miscellaneous papers, 1919-1932.  
Folder 38: Rebekah Lodge, correspondence and miscellaneous papers, 1933-1948.  
Folder 39: Rebekah Lodge, correspondence and miscellaneous papers, 1949-1952.  
Folder 40: Rebekah Lodge, correspondence and miscellaneous papers, 1953-1962.  
Folder 41: Rebekah Lodge, correspondence and miscellaneous papers, undated.  
Folder 42: Rebekah Lodge, programs and printed material, 1924-1950.

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### **Index Cards**

Barrett, Alice T.  
Bennett, Phil A.  
Boonville (Mo.)  
Breuer, William Hayes.  
Buehler, Harry Andrew, 1876-1944  
Camp Lewis (Wash.) [SEE Fort Lewis (Wash.)]  
Camp Travis (Tex.)  
Chambers, Irene  
Clubs  
Daughters of Rebekah  
Donnelly, Phil M., 1891-1961  
Dunham, Missouri Belle, 1870-1951  
Elmer, William P.  
Fort Leonard Wood (Mo.)  
Fort Lewis (Wash.)  
Frisco Travelers Association  
Hanrahan, Jeremiah, 1885-1955  
Independent Order of Odd Fellows  
James, Lucy Wortham, 1880-1938  
James Foundation (Saint James, Mo.)  
Kansas City Business Woman's Club  
League of Women Voters of Missouri  
Lebanon (Mo.)  
Lloyd, Hiram  
Mann, Clair V. (Clair Victor), 1884-1974  
Maramec Spring (Mo.)  
Military bases--Missouri—Fort Leonard Wood  
Military bases—Texas—Camp Travis.  
Missouri. State Board of Training Schools.  
Missouri Christian Missionary Society.  
Missouri Industrial Home for Girls [SEE State Industrial Home for Girls (Chillicothe, Mo.)]  
Missouri Training School for Boys (Boonville, Mo.)  
Missouri Woman's Association of Commerce  
Missouri League of Women Voters [SEE League of Women Voters of Missouri.]  
Moyer-Wing, Alice Curtice  
Municipal government—Missouri—Saint James  
Munyon, LeRoy  
Naeter, Fred W.  
Neill, Thomas T.  
Odd Fellows, Independent Order of [SEE Independent Order of Odd Fellows.]  
Order of the Eastern Star of Missouri  
Ousley, Edward William, 1882-1958

Ousley, Hugh C., 1898-1944  
Ousley, Leann Chambers, 1865-12944  
Ousley, James Siegel, 1862-1944  
Ousley, Mayme Hanrahan, 1887-1970  
Ousley family—Genealogy  
Ozark Trail Association  
Pershing Way (highway association)  
Phelps County (Mo.)  
Phelps County Historical Society (Mo.)  
Phelps County (Mo.). Old Age Assistance Board  
Powell, John F.  
Rebekah Lodge, I.O.O.F. [SEE Daughters of Rebekah.]  
Redfield, Susan  
Reformatories—Missouri.  
Reformatories for women—Missouri.  
Republican Party (Mo.).  
Roads--Missouri.  
Roy, Jason E.  
Rucker, Booker Hall.  
Saint James Charity Board (Saint James, Mo.)  
Saint James (Mo.)  
Schande, August, 1860-1944  
Scott, Henry W.  
Sharp, Louis J. (Louis James), 1912-  
Simmons (Mo.)  
Smithson, Lena R.  
Societies.  
Stark, Tom, Mrs.  
State Industrial Home for Girls (Chillicothe, Mo.)  
Thornberry, John  
Wayland, Adelaide, 1863-1954  
Wildeboor, William M.  
Williams, Clyde  
Women in politics—Missouri—Phelps County  
Women—Societies and clubs  
World War, 1914-1918